

I'm writing out of concern for Sinclair Broadcasting's plans to carry an anti-Kerry program during the closing weeks of the presidential election campaign.

I've long been involved in election campaigns, and never before have I seen such a blatant move by a television firm to manipulate an election. This to me amounts to a violation of Sinclair Broadcasting's public trust.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair does not own the airwaves. The people of the United States do. Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process

needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.